

## CONSOLIDATED OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS AND TASK LIST

**Arming:** Ensuring weapon systems and adequate munitions are available; includes the distribution of munitions and weapons from the sustaining base user.

**Attrition (Attrit):** The reduction in the effectiveness of a force caused by the loss of personnel or materiel (JCS PUB 1-02). Comment: A force assigned the task of “Attrit” should normally be assigned the degree of success to be achieved in support of its purpose.

**Block:** Deny the enemy access to a given area or prevent enemy advance in a given direction. It may be for a specified time. Units may have to retain terrain and accept decisive engagement (FM 101-5-1). Comment: A force assigned the task of “block” should normally be assigned the degree of success to be achieved and/or a specified time frame in support of its purpose.

**Branches:** Options for changing dispositions, orientation, or direction of movement and accepting or declining battle. Changes selected must still allow for the attainment of the mission.

**Breach(ing):** The employment of any means to secure passage through an enemy minefield or fortification (JCS PUB 1-02).

**Canalize:** To restrict operations to a narrow zone by use of existing or reinforcing obstacles or by direct or indirect fires (FM 101-5-1).

**Clear (Enemy in Zone):** A requirement to eliminate organized resistance in an assigned zone by destroying, capturing, or forcing the withdrawal of enemy forces that could interfere with the unit’s ability to accomplish its mission (FM 101-5-1).

**NOTE:** The degree of success to be achieved should be specified to describe what is meant by “organized resistance.”

**Combat Power:** The ability to fight. It is relative, not absolute, because it has meaning only as compared to the combat power the enemy can generate. The four elements of combat power: *firepower, leadership, maneuver, and protection.*

**Contain:** To stop, hold, or surround the forces of the enemy or to cause the enemy to center activity on a given front and to prevent his withdrawing any part of his forces for use elsewhere (JCS PUB 1-02). Comment: To “center activity” equates to focusing the majority of the enemy’s combat power at a certain location or for a specific time frame.

**Cover:** A task assigned to a unit/force that accomplishes all the tasks of screening and guard forces. Additionally, a covering force operates apart from the main body to develop the situation early and deceives, disorganizes, and destroys enemy forces. Unlike screening or guard forces, a covering force is a tactically self-contained force (that is, it is organized with sufficient combat support [CS] and combat service support [CSS] forces to operate independently of the main body) (FM 101-5-1). Comment: A force is assigned the task to “cover” as one of the tasks in security force operations. Larger units, e.g., armored cavalry regiments, often conduct covering force operations.

**Delay:** To trade space for time, inflict maximum damage on the enemy force, and preserve the force within the limits established by the commander. In delay operations, the destruction of enemy force is secondary to slowing his advance to gain time (FM 101-5-1). Comment: “Delay” may also be an operation for larger units.

**Destroy:** The effects of applied combat power that renders the condition of a target so damaged that it can neither function as intended nor be restored to a usable condition (JCS PUB 1-02). Comment: The degree of “destruction” can be specified. A target can be personnel, equipment, material, terrain, or an intangible such as morale or willingness to fight.

**Disrupt:** To counter the enemy’s initiative and synchronization, preventing him from concentrating overwhelming combat power against a friendly force (FM 100-5). Comment: A force assigned the task of “disrupt” should normally be assigned the degree of success to be achieved and/or the duration of the “disruption” in relationship to its purpose.

**Firepower:** The destructive force essential to defeating the enemy's ability and will to fight.

**Fix:** Actions taken to prevent the enemy from moving any part of his force, either from a specific location and/or for a specific period of time, by holding or surrounding them to prevent their withdrawal for use elsewhere (FM 101-5-1).

**Fueling:** Storing and distributing fuel throughout the battlefield to support both ground and aviation systems.

**Guard:** A task assigned to a unit/force that accomplishes all the tasks of a screening force. Additionally, a guard force prevents enemy ground observation of and direct fire against the main body. A guard force reconnoiters, attacks, defends, and delays as necessary to accomplish its mission. A guard force normally operates within the range of the main body indirect fire weapons (FM 101-5-1). Comment: “Guard” is one of the tasks in security force operations.

**Interdict:** To prevent or hinder by any means enemy use of any area or route (JCS PUB 1-02).  
Comment: A force assigned the task of “interdict” should normally be assigned the degree of success to be achieved and/or the duration of the “interdiction” in relationship to its purpose.

**Leadership:** The provision of purpose, direction, and motivation in combat.

**Maneuver:** The movement of forces in relation to the enemy to secure or retain positional advantage. It is the dynamic element of combat power.

**Manning (Sustaining the soldier):** Providing men and supporting supplies (less fuel, ammunition, and repair parts), necessary personnel support functions (finance, chaplain activities, personnel actions, moral, welfare, and recreation [MWR] activities), adequate medical support, and above all, leadership.

**Mission:** The primary task assigned to an individual, unit, or force. It usually contains the elements of who, what (task), when, where, and the reason therefore (purpose), but seldom specifies how (FM 101-5-1). As a minimum, a mission statement must include a task and a purpose (FM 101-5, PG 5-6).

**Neutralize:** To render ineffective or unusable (JCS PUB 1-02). Comment: A force assigned the task of “neutralize” will normally be assigned a specific time frame or degree of neutralization to be achieved in relationship to its purpose.

**Operation:** A military action, or administrative military mission--the process of carrying on combat, including movement, supply, attack, defense, and maneuvers needed to gain the objectives of any battle or campaign (FM 101-5).

**Operation Sustainment:** (FM 100-5)

- Includes logistical and support activities to sustain campaigns and major operations within a theater of operation.
- Extends from the theater sustaining base to major tactical formations.
- Normally, uses gross planning figures with little or no input from the supported organization.

**Protecting:** Securing not only the units but also the lines of communication (LOC) over which sustainment occurs.

**Protection:** The conservation of the fighting potential of a force so that it can be applied at the decisive time and place. Protection has two components. The first includes all actions that are taken to counter the enemy's firepower and maneuver. The second includes actions to keep soldiers healthy and maintain their fighting morale.

**Retain:** To hold or keep in possession. To keep in a fixed state or condition (Webster's New World Dictionary, Second Edition). Comment: A force assigned the task to "retain" may be required to occupy and hold a terrain feature to ensure it is free of enemy occupation or use for a specified period of time. This task is normally associated with defensive operations. (There is no U.S. Army doctrinal definition for this task.)

**Screen:** A task assigned to a unit/force to maintain surveillance, provide early warning to the main body, impede and harass the enemy with supporting indirect fires, and destroy enemy reconnaissance elements within its capabilities (FM 101-5-1). Comment: "Screen" is one of the tasks in security force operations.

**Secure:** To gain possession of a position or terrain feature with or without force, and to make such disposition as will prevent, as far as possible, its destruction or loss by enemy action (JCS PUB 1-02). Comment: A force assigned the task to "secure" does not always have to occupy terrain to secure it.

**Seize:** To clear a designated area and obtain control of it (FM 101-5-1). Comment: Units assigned the task of "seize" will usually have to gain physical possession of a terrain feature from an enemy force.

**Sequel:** Based on possible outcomes: victory, defeat, or stalemate. They establish general dispositions, objectives, and missions for subordinate units after battle.

**Suppress (Suppression):** Direct or indirect fires, electronic countermeasures (ECM), or smoke brought to bear on enemy personnel, weapons, or equipment to prevent effective fire on friendly force (FM 101-5-1). Comment: A force assigned the task of suppress will normally be assigned a specific time frame or the desired effects of the "suppression" in relationship to its purpose.

**Task:** A clearly defined, measurable activity accomplished by individuals and organizations. Tasks are specific activities that contribute to the accomplishment of encompassing missions or other requirements (FM 25-100). A task should be definable, attainable, and decisive.

**Tactical Sustainment:** (FM 100-5)

- Includes CSS activities to support battles and engagements.
- Normally, performed by organic units from corps to battalion.
- Normally, requires planning force input from the unit level, based on the tactical plan.

**Transporting/Moving:** Encompasses both operating transportation equipment and managing the system. It is critical to both the operator and the supporter that they agree on who is responsible for the function in a particular situation (i.e., the movement of units around the battlefield).